



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Happy Fourth of July

America Turns the Big 240

MADISON – The Fourth of July is always a wonderful time for fireworks, parades, and family fun. While we all enjoy what is hopefully a beautiful summer day in Northern Wisconsin, I want to encourage everyone to take a moment to remember the significance of this date.

240 years ago, a group of 13 colonies of the British Empire issued a Declaration of Independence, founding the United States of America. The Declaration of Independence remains one of our nation's most important documents. While the Constitution outlines the structure of our government, the Declaration of Independence describes our basic values which form the core of what it means to be an American. The Declaration states that we all share "unalienable Rights," including the right to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Today we are also reminded that a free and fair nation does not happen by chance. For example, the Declaration asserts that "all men are created equal," and we know that "men" in 1776 left out a significant portion of the population. At that time, women were disenfranchised, Native Americans were pushed westward, and hundreds of thousands of people were enslaved. Only through tireless struggle did Americans abolish slavery, establish universal voting rights for men and women, and ensure civil rights for *all*. These efforts were carried forth in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence, so that we can more fully match the idea of universal equality with reality.

It is important to understand the significance of Independence Day, as it is much more than a single day in history 240 years ago. It is a celebration of the great people throughout our nation's history that sacrificed so much to make the United States a beacon of freedom in the world. As your state representative, I am inspired to make sure that the vision of the founding generation is carried into the future.

I wish everyone here in the 74th Assembly District a relaxing, fun, and safe Fourth of July. I encourage that as you watch the fireworks and enjoy time with friends and family, you take a moment to remember the significance and importance of this day.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about issues relating to state government. I can be reached at 888-534-0074 or Rep.Meyers@legis.wisconsin.gov.

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